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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Alleged Shortage of Shipmasters in the Soviet Merchant Fleet	DATE DISTR.	8 December 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED
 Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

the past two years there has been a shortage of shipmasters in the Soviet Merchant Fleet. [] this shortage was the result of the increase of the Soviet Merchant Fleet. [] no shipmasters fit for duty were dismissed by the Ministry of Shipping and Traffic, and that young merchant marine officers were promoted as quickly as possible¹.

25X1

[] even naval officers, as far as they could be made available, were assigned to merchant ships.

[] resignation [] turned down because of the shortage of shipmasters.

25X1

[] young officers receive appointments as third or even second mates on completion of their studies in nautical colleges; after a year's service in this capacity, the more intelligent ones are employed as first mates on tramp colliers. After two years in this capacity, they are appointed shipmasters. [] naval officers were

25X1

employed aboard merchant ships only in the event of an emergency. In such emergencies the officers make two or three voyages as deputy masters and then assume command as shipmasters.

25X1

25X1

1 [] Comment: This is probably the Ministry of Maritime and River Fleets.

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